

# Better Buildings Residential Network Peer Exchange Call Series

Transition: Office to Multi-Family Building Conversions and Efficiency

October 26, 2023



# **Agenda and Ground Rules**

- Moderator
  - Jonathan Cohen, Better Buildings Residential Network, U.S. DOE Residential Buildings Integration Program (RBI)
- Agenda Review and Ground Rules
- Residential Network Overview and Upcoming Call Schedule
- Opening Poll
- Featured Speakers
  - Kera Package, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - Robert Fuller, Gensler
- Open Discussion
- Closing Poll and Announcements

#### **Ground Rules:**

- 1. Sales of services and commercial messages are not appropriate during Peer Exchange Calls.
- 2. Calls are a safe place for discussion; please do not attribute information to individuals on the call.

The views expressed by speakers are their own, and do not reflect those of the Dept. of Energy.





# **Better Buildings Residential Network**

# Join the Network

#### **Member Benefits:**

- Recognition in media, social media and publications
- Speaking opportunities
- Updates on latest trends
- Voluntary member initiatives
- One-on-One brainstorming conversations

#### **Commitment:**

Members only need to provide one number: their organization's number of residential energy upgrades per year, or equivalent.

#### <u>Upcoming Calls (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays):</u>

- 11/09: Residential Storage An Essential Piece of the Climate Puzzle
- 12/14: The Potential of Whole-Home Lighting Systems and Low-Voltage Homes

Peer Exchange Call summaries are posted on the Better Buildings website a few weeks after the call







Kera Package
Office of Community Planning and Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



# Adaptive Reuse: Conversion of Commercial Properties to Residential Uses and Mixed-Use Development

**Kera Package** | Chief of Staff HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development



# What is Adaptive Reuse?

#### An Opportunity:

- Office occupancy rates declined from 95 percent at the end of February 2020 to 10 percent at the end of March 2020, when COVID-19 lockdowns went into effect, rebounding only to 47 percent by the end of November 2022 and 50.3 percent at the start of June 2023. [Kastle Systems]
- ~15% of office buildings in the commercial districts of the 105 largest cities in the U.S. are physically suitable for conversion. [National Bureau of Economic Research]
- White House convened an interagency working group to support the conversion of commercial properties to housing, and leverage climate-focused federal resources to create zero emissions and affordable units.
- Characteristics of adaptive reuse, according to a recent report by researchers at the Terner Center for Housing Innovation:
  - 1) existence of a structure to be reused
  - 2) functional and/or economic obsolescence of the existing building
  - 3) change of use
  - 4) economic viability of the new project.

# Why Adaptive Reuse?

#### Economic Development:

- Cities are experiencing an increase in office vacancies and a shortage in housing.
- \* Revitalizes communities, especially downtown and economic cores.
- Creates more workforce housing close to transportation and job centers.
- Helps small businesses by bringing more activity to retail, restaurants, and amenities.

#### Cost Savings:

- ❖ Shorter development timeline especially if local policies provide flexibilities / incentives.
- ❖ May save in construction costs, depending on the condition of the property.

#### Community Building:

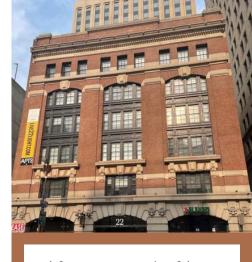
- New life for historic properties, preserving community significance and architecture.
- Placemaking by bringing resources to disinvested areas with high commercial vacancies.

#### Climate:

- \* Conversions reduce demolition waste and emissions related to new construction
- Conversions also provide an opportunity to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprint of a property.

# Is Adaptive Reuse an Effective Strategy?

- Los Angeles: created over 12,000 units downtown through their Adaptive Reuse Program since 1999.
- New York City: created 12,300 units through a past incentive program and has created a
  taskforce to look at the future of conversions.
- **Cleveland:** created over 5,000 units through conversions across 36 properties since 1970.
- Kansas City: created over 5,000 units through adaptive reuse through mostly office conversions.
- Baltimore: in 2022 alone, added 400 new apartments through office-to-residential conversions.
- **Chicago:** creating 1,655 units through the LaSalle Street Reimagined initiative.
- California: Repurposed hotel rooms through Project Homekey at least 4,000 new units.



Light Apartments | Baltimore 40 units, rooftop solar panels

Photo credit: 2 West Photography



# How can HUD funding support adaptive reuse / conversions?

- □ Acquisition
- □ Rehabilitation
- ☐ Predevelopment Costs
- ☐ Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- ☐ Mixed-Use Development
- ☐ Rental Assistance
- ☐ Supportive Services (PSH)

#### • Formula Grant Funding:

- Community Development Block Grants
- HOME Investment Partnerships
- ♦ HOME American Rescue Plan
- Housing Trust Fund

#### Section 108 Loan Guarantee

#### Competitive Grant Funding:

- Choice Neighborhoods
- Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing through Homeless Assistance Grants

#### Mortgage Insurance:

- ❖ Section 221(d)(4): Mortgage Insurance for Rental and Cooperative Housing
- ❖ FHA Section 220: Mortgage Insurance for Rental Housing for Urban Renewal and Concentrated Development Areas

#### Technical Assistance



Photo credit: Above: Mississippi Heritage Trust; Below: Pam Thornton, Intervest.

## Hattiesburg, Mississippi

# Vacant High School → Preservation Crossing 74 Units for low-income seniors

Public Funding Sources	AMOUNT
National Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$500,000
FIHOP* CRA Credits (via MHC)	\$1,075,000
PUBLIC FUNDING TOTAL	\$1,575,000
Private Funding Sources	AMOUNT
LIHTC	\$10,041,783
State Tax Credits State Historic Tax Credits	\$2,700,797
Deferred Developer Fee	\$1,170,546
Cash From Operations	\$96,441
PRIVATE FUNDING TOTAL	\$14,009,567
TOTAL COMBINED FUNDING AMOUNT	\$15,584,567



#### Photo Source: Section 108 Case Study

## **Memphis, Tennessee**

# Distribution Center $\rightarrow$ Crosstown Concourse

## 260 Units, School, YMCA

	SOURCES <sup>1</sup> :		USES	S:
	New Market Equity	\$ 16,700,000	Acquisition	\$7,000,000
面	History Tax Equity	36,000,000	Hard Costs	104,000,000
ig i	Sponsor Equity	31,000,000	Tenant Improvements	50,000,000
	Delta Regional Authority Grant	250,000	Other Hard Costs	5,300,0,000
I	Section 108 Loan	4,000,000	Soft Costs	22,600,000
	BEDI Grant	2,000,000	Financing and Fees	12,500,000
	Qualified Energy	8,150,000	Reserves	3,600,000
1	Conservation Bonds City Capital		TOTAL	\$ 98,100,000
	Improvement Program	2,900,000	TOTAL	\$ 38,100,000
	Shelby County	5,000,000		
-	Mezzanine Loan	12,500,000		
	Senior Loan	86,500,000		
	TOTAL	\$ 205,000,000		



### Wilmington, Delaware

Vacant Church → Village of St. John

53 units (5 HOME-assisted units) for low- to moderate- income seniors, homeless individuals, and persons with disabilities

9		
1	Funding Sources	Cost
1	HOME Investment	\$300,000
A :	LIHTC (if applicable)	\$8,401,638
	Other Federal Funds	\$1,908,799
	Other Public Funds	\$8,858,751
	Private Funds	\$3,358,435
	Total Project Costs	\$22,827,623



Texarkana, Texas

Grim Hotel → Grim Lofts

98 units, mixed-use, mixed-income

• \$26 million in funding, including \$1.4 million in Section 108 funding, EPA Brownfields Assessment Grants, EPA revolving Loan Fund, and state and federal historic tax credits.







### For more information:

#### HUD Exchange

- More information on HUD funding sources and eligible uses.
- https://www.hudexchange.info/

#### PD&R Evidence Matters

- Fall 2023 publication focuses on commercial-to-residential conversions.
- https://www.huduser.gov/portal/evidence.html

#### Build for the Future Funding Navigator

- List of funding opportunities under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and others
  across federal agencies to support efforts to enhance climate resiliency, energy efficiency, renewable energy integration,
  healthy housing, workforce development and environmental justice in HUD supported communities, programs and
  properties.
- https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/build-for-the-future/funding-navigator/



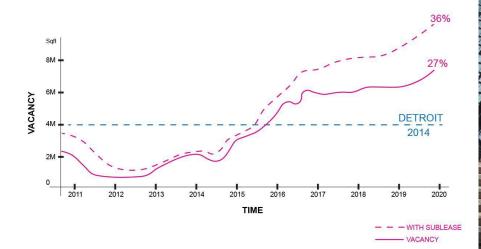


Robert Fuller Gensler





# **OFFICE VACANCY IN CALGARY**





## **CONVERSION SCORING CRITERIA**



**Site Context** 

10%



**Building Form** 

**30%** 



**Floor Plate** 

**30%** 



**Envelope** 

**10**%

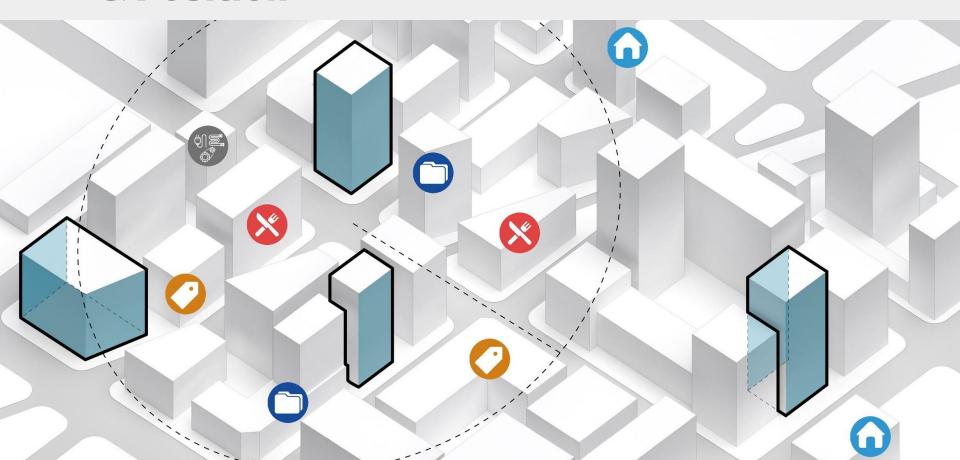


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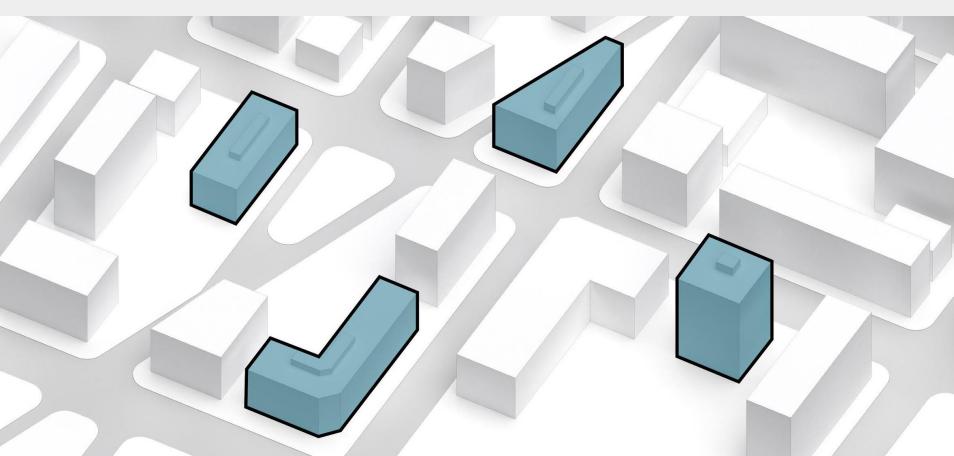
# **Site Context** & Position

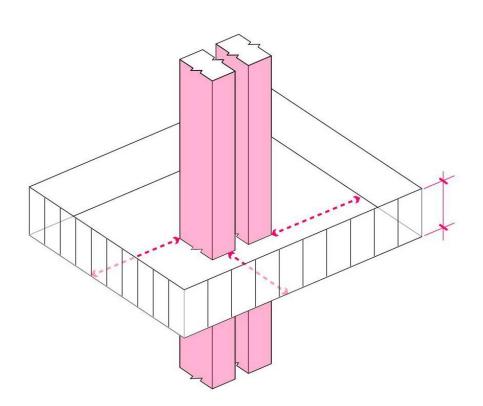
- Walkability
- Transit
- Natural light and views





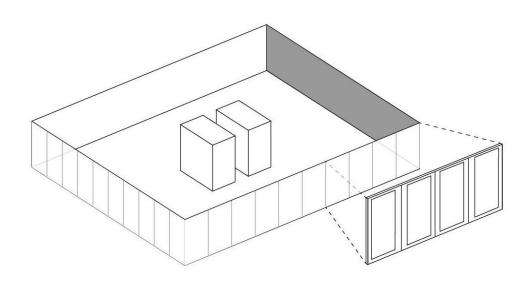
- Shape of Building
- How easy is it to plan units





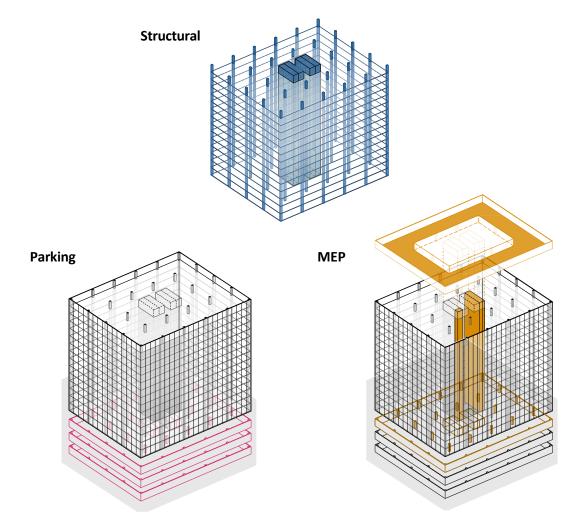


- Window to core distance
- Floorplate size
- Floor to floor height
- Number of elevators





- Sides with window
- Window-to-wall ratio
- Ease of window replacement





- Loading
- Parking
- Structure
- MEP

THE INPUT

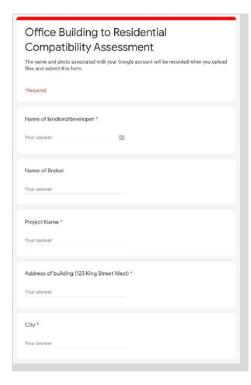
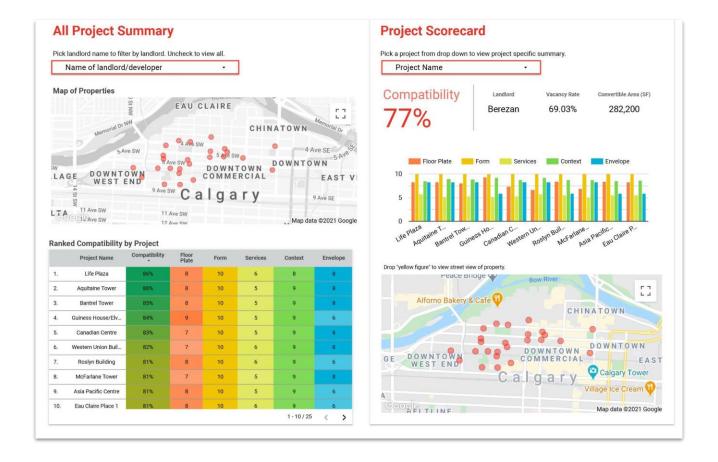


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THE OUTPUT



THE RESULTS

Gensler



The Downtown Calgary Incentive Program is a cornerstone of The City's Downtown Strategy, and a major driver of the vision and goals of Calgary's Greater Downtown

#### **Grant details**

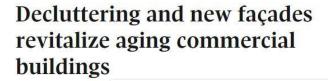
The program offers a grant for office to residential conversions of \$75 per square foot, based on the original gross building area of existing office space that will be converted.

Grants are available up to a maximum of \$15 million per property under Administration approval - any requests in excess of \$15 million require Council approval for a particular application.

The following information must be included in an application.



Gensler **MAKING WAVES** 



Bloomberg

#### WALLACE IMMEN SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND PUBLISHED 1 DAY AGO



#### CITYLAB

# Imagining a Second I Manhattan's Empty (

As workers stay home and office buildi New York City's business district — as

Patrick Sisson

November 2, 2020, 11:26 AM EST

SHARE THIS ARTICLE

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in Post

Email

Midtown Manhattan, a dense grid of office towers normally pulsing with activity, has been called a "ghost town" so many times that you'd expect to see tumbleweeds rolling through Bryant Park. Back in July, the New York Times declared that the commercial district was in a "purgatorial phase zero" of reopening, painting an evocative scene of a food cart vendor scanning empty streets for signs of life. Months later, things have not





New York City's Empty Offices Reveal a

**Global Property Dilemma** 

The rise of remote work will hurt older buildings, leaving landlords in the lurch

#### Real Estate

Following pandemic, converting office buildings into housing may become new 'normal'



Future proofing: Upgrade fading offices or convert them to residential?

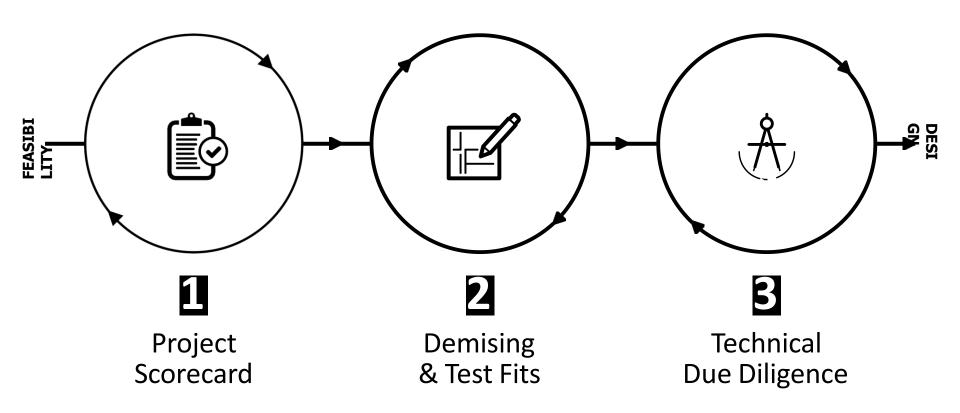
#### SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL PUBLISHED AUGUST 4, 2020 This article was published more than 6 months ago. Some information in it may no longer be

■ I COMMENTS 🍬 SHARE 🕳 A 🛧 TEXT SIZE 🔲 BOOKMARK

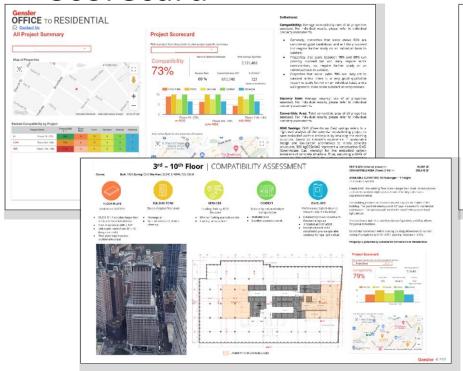


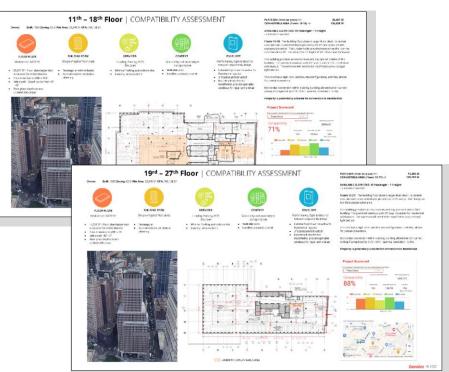
- What can and can't you do after your first COVID-19 vaccine dose
- A look at Canadians' domestic and international travel prospects for this
- Are these the stock market returns of a lifetime ROB CARRICK
- Confusion over rollout persists days after Ontario pledged to vaccinate all adults in COVID hot snots
- Wednesday's Insider Report: Chairman cashes out \$4-million from this stock that's rallied 760% in the past year @~

## PHASED ANALYTICAL APPROACH

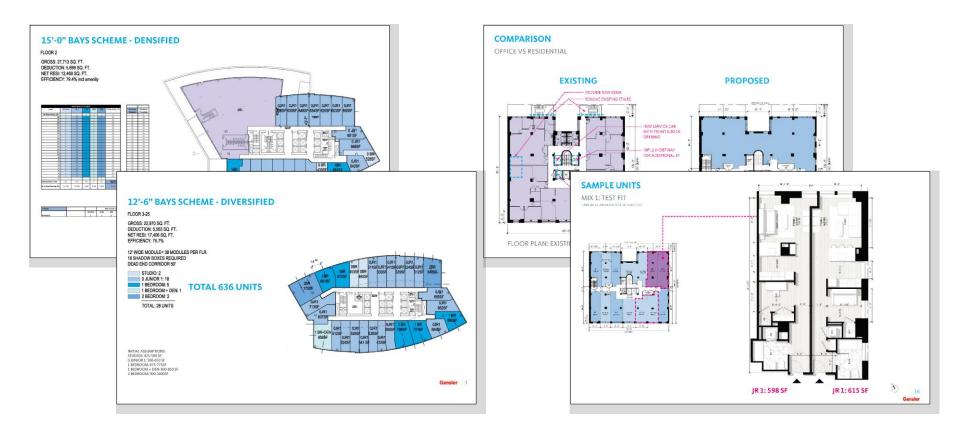


# Project Scorecard





# 2 Demising & Test Fits



Office-to-resi conversions are feasible under the right circumstances

Conversions could be one important step in addressing housing supply shortages

Feasibility (and success) of any conversion policy will require a thoughtful balance of zoning amendments, incentives, and affordability requirements

In New York, it will required close coordination of city and state policies

Adaptive reuse strategies can have sustainability advantages vs. tearing down and building new

Potential impact at both a building, neighborhood and city-wide level

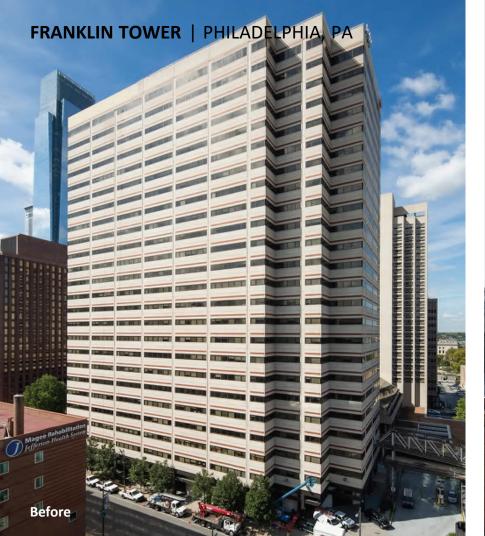
CASE STUDIES Gensler

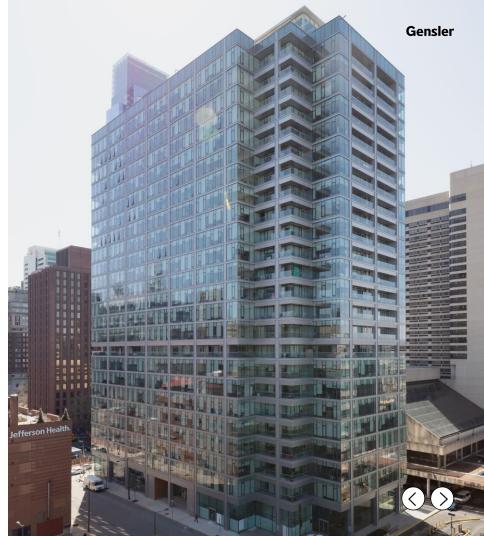


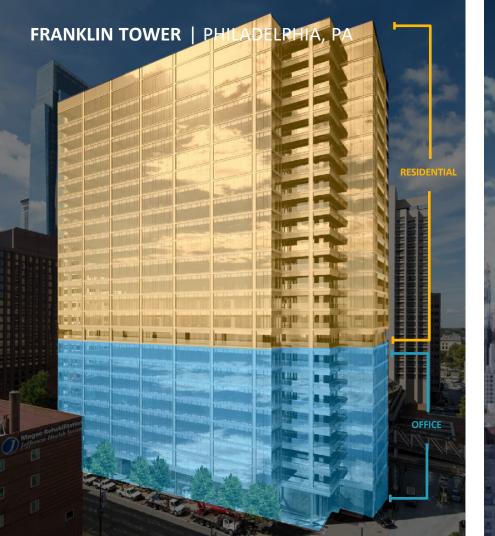


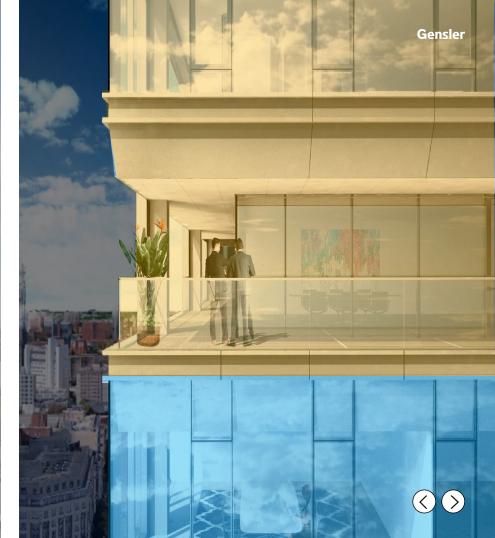
160 Water Street





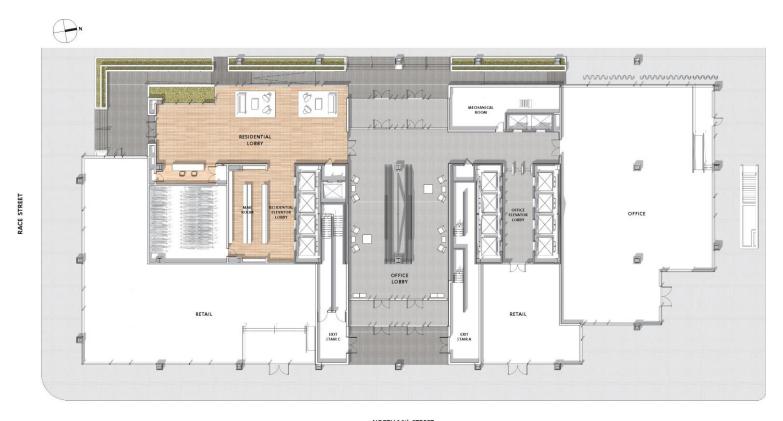


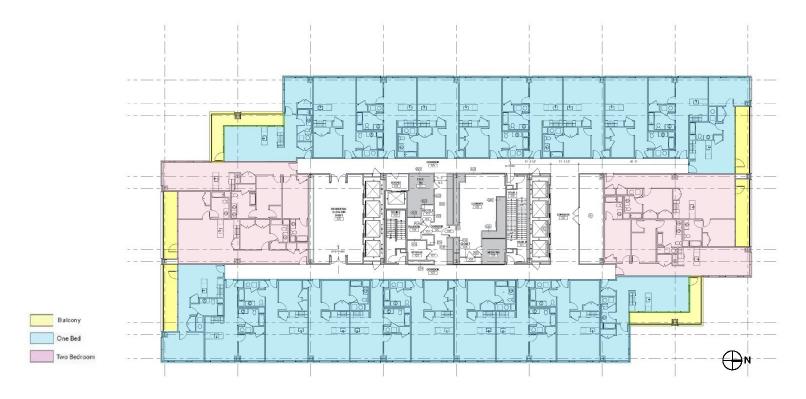


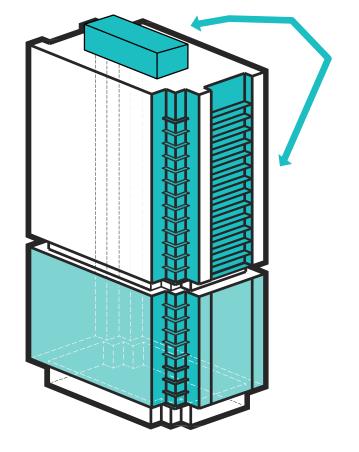








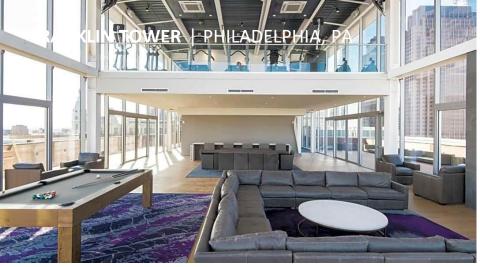


































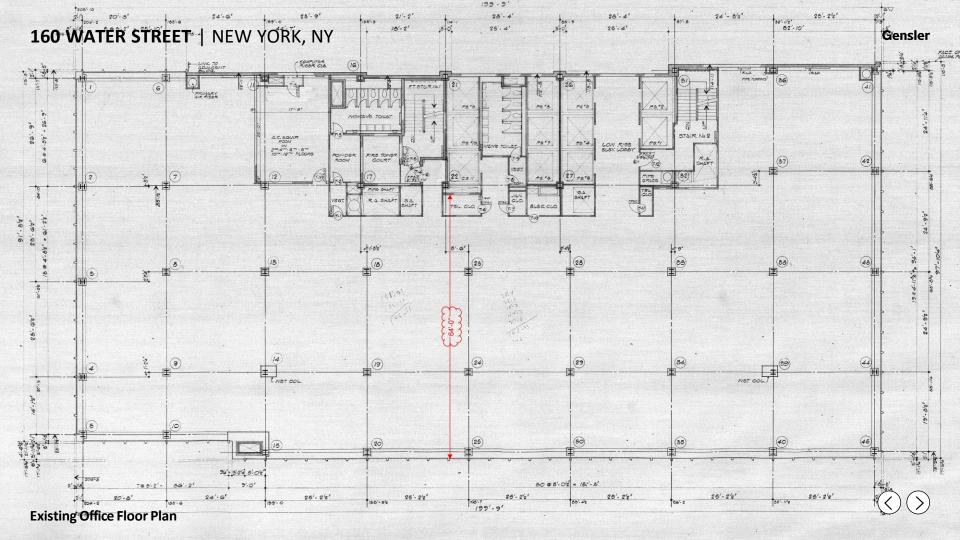




160 WATER STREET | NEW YORK, NY

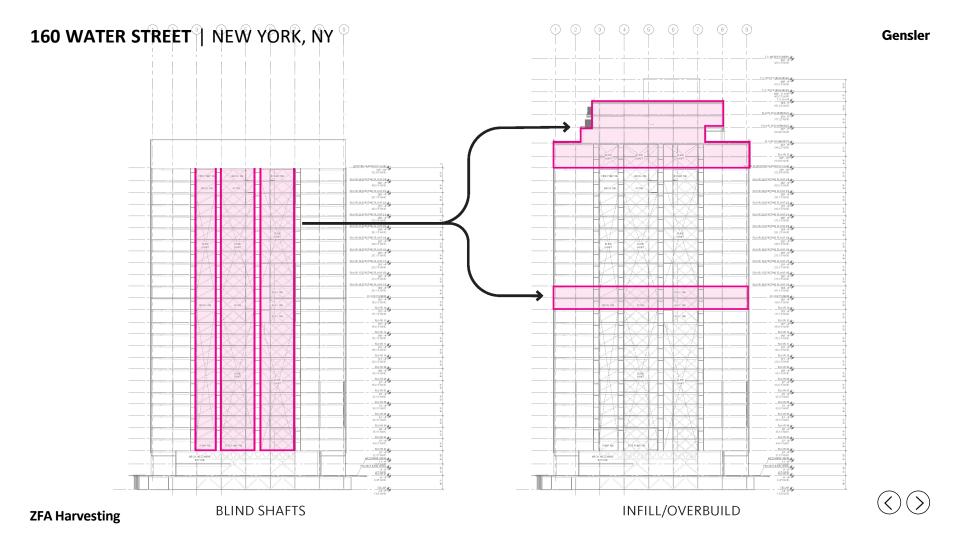


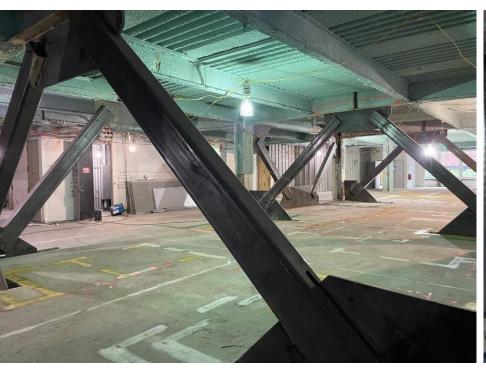


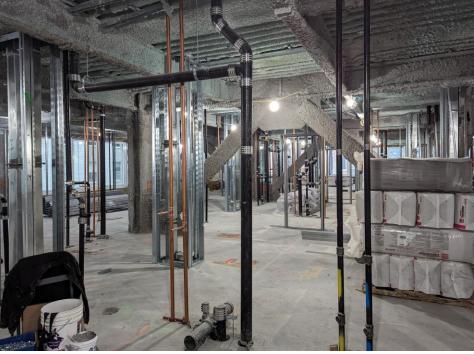


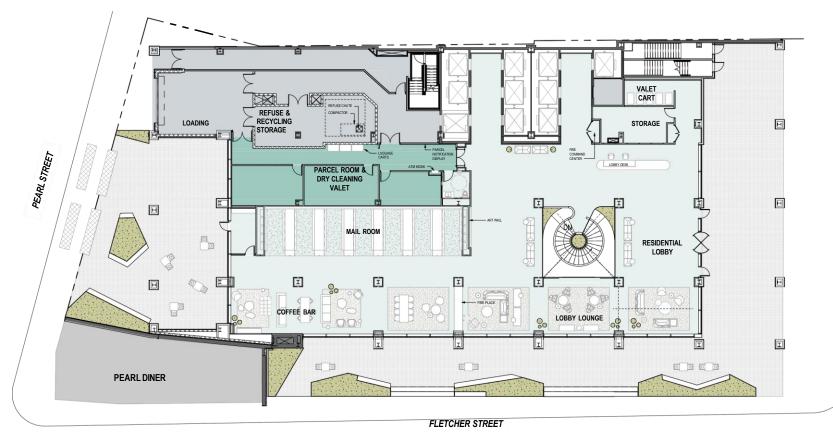


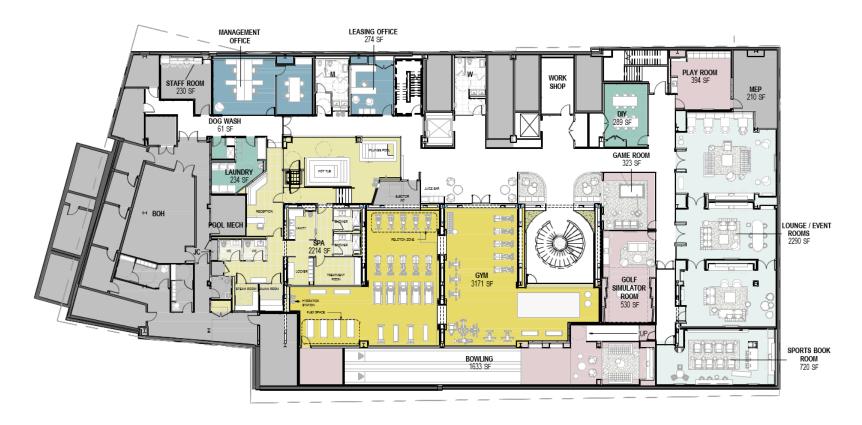








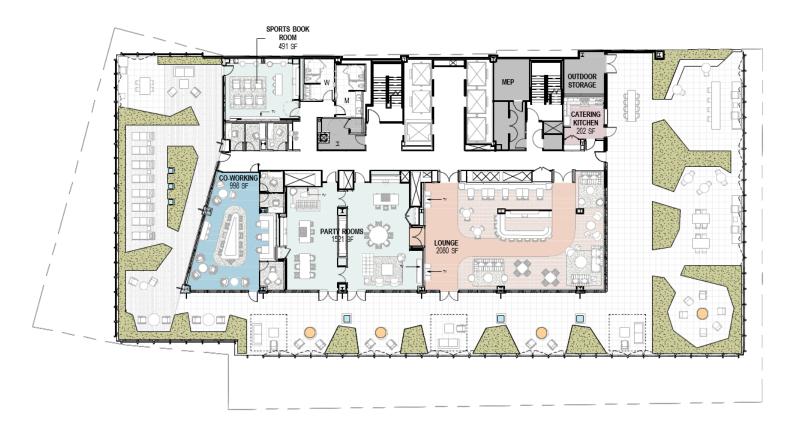


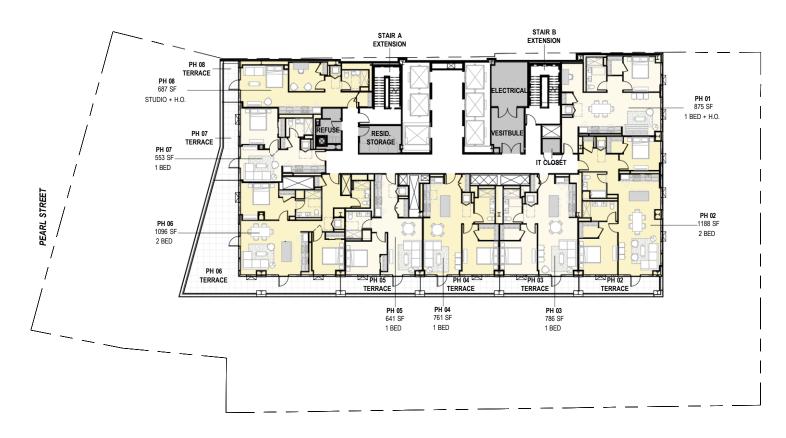










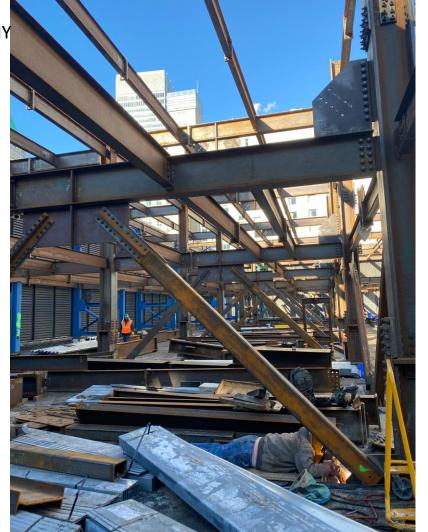


### **160 WATER STREET** | NEW YORK, NY



















**Façade Existing** 

**Façade Construction Progress** 





# **Smart Tools for Efficient HVAC** Performance (STEP) Campaign





Scan this QR code to visit our website Contact: christian.valoria@pnnl.gov

The STEP Campaign aims to increase adoption of smart diagnostic tools to streamline HVAC system performance testing and troubleshooting, reducing energy-wasting faults and improving occupant comfort.

## To join the STEP Campaign, visit: bit.ly/3DFmEaE



#### **HVAC Contractors and Technicians**

- Reduce callbacks, improve consistency and quality, streamline processes
- Find out where to get training on smart diagnostic tools
- Be recognized for successful adoption of smart diagnostic tools!



#### **Utilities and Program Implementers**

- Streamline quality installation and quality maintenance programs
- Improve engagement with your contractors
- Be recognized for programs that utilize smart diagnostic tools!



#### **HVAC Training Organizations**

- Offer qualified training on System Performance with smart diagnostic tools
- Promote your training events
- Be recognized for providing training!



#### **Weatherization Organizations**

- Ensure your ASHP/CAC installations are operating at optimized efficiency
- Develop pilot with PNNL team
- Be recognized!

ORGANIZING PARTNERS















## **Explore the Residential Program Guide**

Resources to help improve your program and reach energy efficiency targets:

- <u>Handbooks</u> explain why and how to implement specific stages of a program.
- Quick Answers provide answers and resources for common questions.
- <u>Proven Practices</u> posts include lessons learned, examples, and helpful tips from successful programs.
- Technology Solutions NEW! present resources on advanced technologies, HVAC & Heat Pump Water Heaters, including installation guidance, marketing strategies, & potential savings.
- Health + Home Performance Infographic spark homeowner conversations.



https://rpsc.energy.gov





### **Health + Home Performance Infographic**



DOE's Health + Home Performance Infographic reveals the link between efficiency and health – something everyone cares about. Efficiency programs and contractors can use the question-and-answer format to discover a homeowner's needs.

The infographic is ideal for the "kitchen table" conversations where people decide what to do – and who they want to do it. It also has links for homeowners to find a qualified contractor if they do not already have one.

<u>Download</u> this infographic from DOE's Better Buildings Residential Network.

Looking for photos to help tell your energy efficiency story? Visit our image libraries: <a href="https://www.energy.gov/eere/better-buildings-residential-network/articles/image-libraries">https://www.energy.gov/eere/better-buildings-residential-network/articles/image-libraries</a>

## **Thank You!**

Follow us to plug into the latest Better Buildings news and updates!



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Please send any follow-up questions or future call topic ideas to:

bbresidentialnetwork@ee.doe.gov



